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DETAILED ACTION

The examiner acknowledges receipt of the amendment filed 03/15/2010. Claims 19-24 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: No prior art can be found to disclose or suggest carrying a microbial soil inoculant comprising aerobic microorganisms on animal bone charcoal. The nearest prior art to applicant's invention, WO 92/083355 (Kosanke et al.), provides a similar inoculant which is preferably carried on clay but is also disclosed to be carried on charcoal. Animal bone charcoal (primarily calcium phosphate) has high phosphorus content especially when compared to traditional charcoal (primarily carbon) and is not disclosed to be functionally equivalent to the charcoal disclosed by Kosanke.

Although the disclosure of *Biomethanation of low pH petrochemical wastewater using up-flow fixed-film anaerobic reactors* (Patel et al.) discloses carrying microbial populations on animal bone charcoal, applicant's aerobic microorganisms are fundamentally different to the anaerobic microorganisms disclosed by Patel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JARED WOOD whose telephone number is (571)270-5911. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30 am - 5:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on (571)272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JARED WOOD/
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/J.A. LORENZO/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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